

Weather Delays Maari Development Drilling



The jack-up rig *Enasco 107* has completed the first phase of the Maari development drilling program included the drilling of five oil development wells and three water injection wells.

The first phase of the development drilling program Maari oil field, in PMP 38160 offshore the Taranaki basin, New Zealand has been completed following the installation of 10 30" stovepipes in the seabed below the wellhead platform base.

The stovepipes were hammered in place to an approximate depth of 36 m below the sea-bed and the installation is said to have progressed smoothly and been completed ahead of schedule.

The next phase of the Maari drilling program requires the installation of 24" conductor casings, into eight well slots, to a depth of 260 m. The 24" conductors will be installed using drilling with casing technology, which is expected to be completed by mid December. After installing the conductors, the *Enasco 107* is expected to drill and complete the first three oil production wells as a batch.

The first phase of the Maari development drilling program included the drilling of five oil development wells and three water injection wells. First oil is expected on the

completion of the first oil development well in mid-February 2009. Oil production will ramp up towards an anticipated initial gross rate of 35,000 bbl as the development wells are drilled.

Operator Austrian OMV took over the *Enasco 107* in August but was unable to move it into place until after a long delay due to poor weather during which the rig had to be left standing about 100 m off the platform.

OMV has a 69% stake the Maari project , while Todd Energy holds 16%, and Australia's Horizon and Cue Energy each hold 5%. ■